



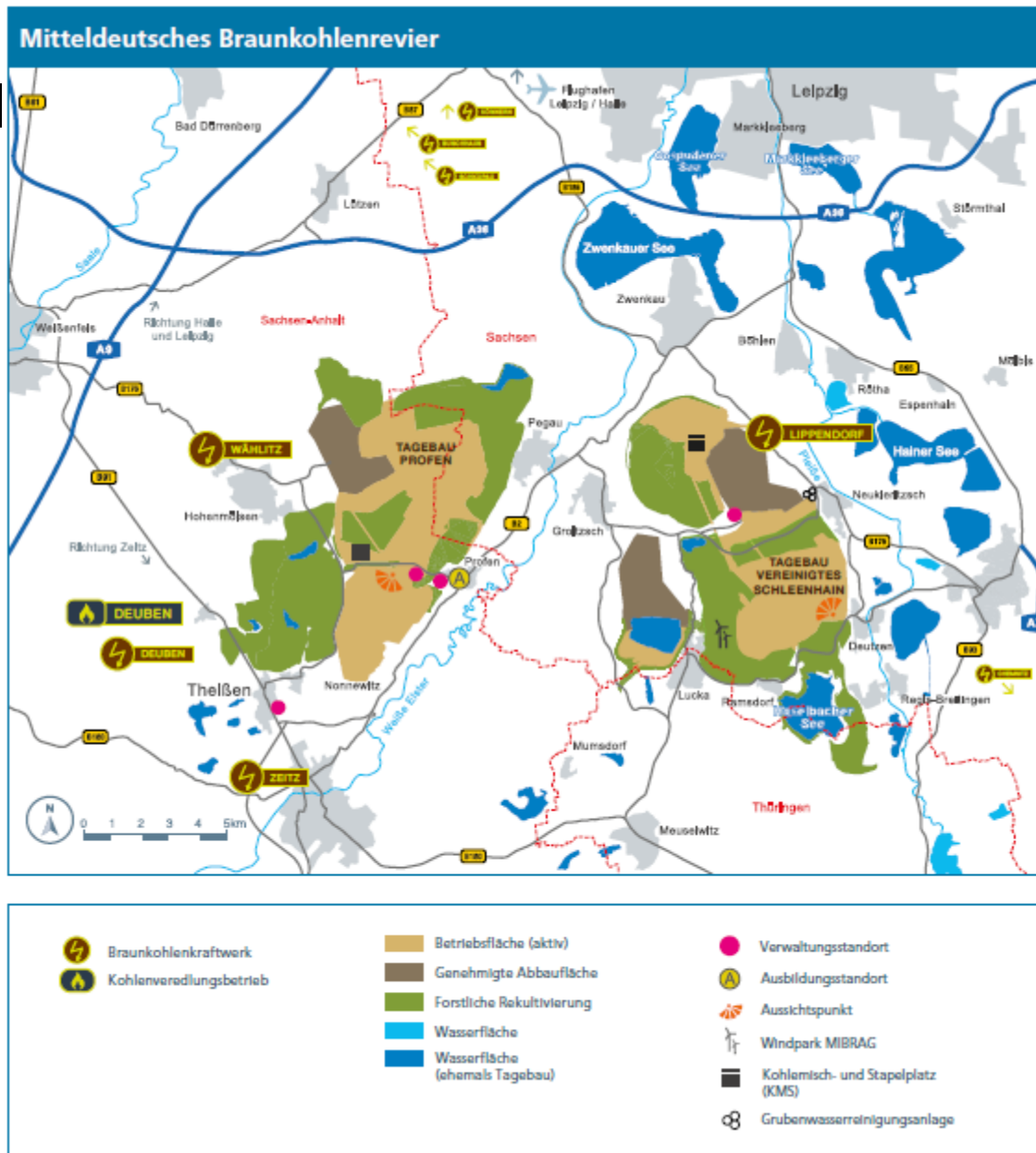
***Coal Regions in Transition Platform  
Brussels/ Belgium  
12 and 13 July in Brussels  
- general part -  
Regional strategies for structural  
development in lignite  
(Mitteldeutsches Revier)***

State Secretary Dr. Jürgen Ude  
Ministry of Economy, Science and Digitalisation of the State of  
Saxony-Anhalt



# The Mitteldeutsche Revier

1. Brief historical review
2. Current and future importance
3. Examples from Saxony-Anhalt to support structural change in the Central German region



# The Mitteldeutsche Revier

## 1. Brief historical review

- long industrial tradition
- In the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century: **lignite was the starting material** for the production of bitumen, paraffin and oils
- At the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century: development of Central Germany into an industrial conurbation
- Lignite was a key raw material for **meeting the growing energy demand**
- Beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century: material processing of this raw material reached due to the emerging chemical industry and the production of mining wax **industrial dimensions**

# The Mitteldeutsche Revier

## 1. Brief historical review

Reunification in 1990

Closing of many companies in the Central German lignite industry  
(lack of competitiveness, environmental and acceptance problems)

**Rates of unemployment of 25 %**

60,000 jobs with lignite in the Central German region in 1989 –  
**up to 8,000 jobs today**

# The Mitteldeutsche Revier

## 2. Current and future importance

(activities in and for the Central German region)

Lignite-region  
is characterized by:

|           |                  |  |  |
|-----------|------------------|--|--|
| Chemistry | Sugar production | Suppliers of various services and renewable energies | Promotion energetic and material utilization (mining wax production) |
|-----------|------------------|--|--|

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## 2. Current and future importance

(activities in and for the Central German region)

- excellent conditions for further **stable development in conjunction with the existence and activities of universities and non-university research institutions**
- **"Regional Innovation Strategy Saxony-Anhalt 2014-2020 (RIS)"**

Lead Market "Chemistry and Bioeconomics":

**Change of the oil-based chemical industry towards a more sustainable, energy- and resource-efficient and more biobased economy**

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## 2. Current and future importance

(activities in and for the Central German region)

Principles of the Coalition Agreement 2016 – 2021:

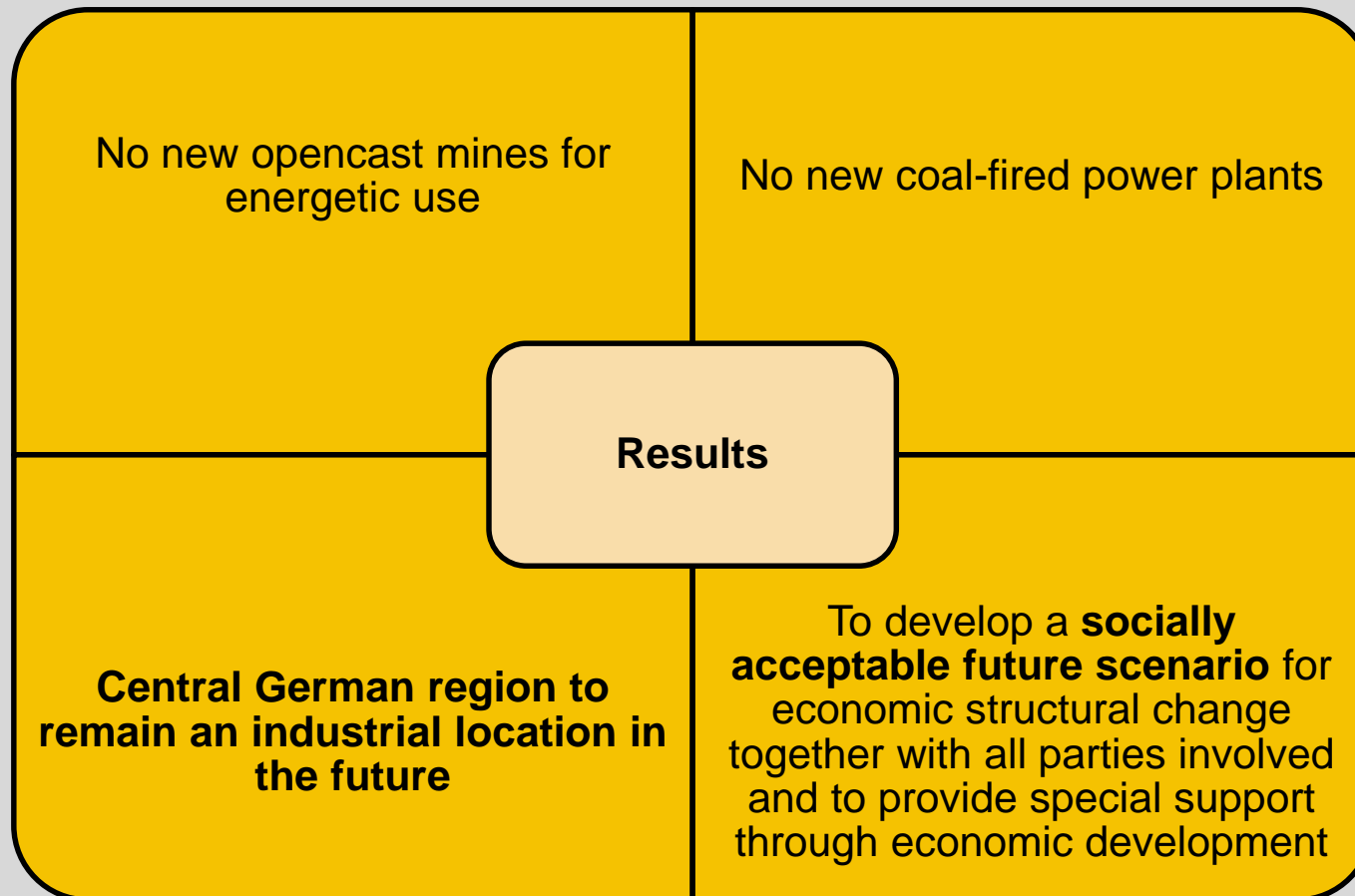
"Future opportunities for Saxony-Anhalt - reliable, fair and sustainable":

- Lignite is an **important raw material**
- energetic use of lignite in **Saxony-Anhalt will be phased out at the latest with the decarburisation of the Profen opencast mine (around 2035)**



# The Mitteldeutsche Revier

## 2. Current and future importance



# The Mitteldeutsche Revier

## 2. Current and future importance

(activities in and for the Central German region)

- decision to appoint the **Commission "Growth, Structural Change and Employment"** on 6 June 2018 by the Federal Government
  - Saxony-Anhalt will be involved in this
  
- Aim: articulate the interests of the Central German territory adequately to the federal government
  - since the **population and the economy have a right to an economically justifiable and secure supply of electricity and heat at all times**
  
- **Instruments of support:**
  - Application for funding for the joint task "Improvement of the regional economic structure"
  
  - „Innovation in the area“

# The Mitteldeutsche Revier

## 3. Examples from Saxony-Anhalt to support structural change in the Central German region

### "Cross-border interconnection of regional economic centres"

- MIBRAG (working group 1)

### "Pilot project CARBONTRANS (Technology platform for a low-emission carbon recycling economy and for the material use of lignite)"

- Fraunhofer IMWS Halle (working group 2)



**Many thanks for your attention!**

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